Combatting Information Fatigue: Health Information Resources for Veterans and Their Families



KATE FLEWELLING AND LYDIA COLLINS

NATIONAL NETWORK OF LIBRARIES OF MEDICINE, MIDDLE ATLANTIC REGION

National Library of Medicine and the National Network of Libraries of Medicine

U.S. National Library of Medicine



Division of the National Institutes of Health (NIH)

- World's largest biomedical library
- Produces free, authoritative electronic health information resources
- 130+ health information databases (PubMed & MedlinePlus)
- Not a commercial vendor
- Government tax dollars at work!



National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM)



NN/LM, formerly Regional Medical Library Program

Established in the Medical Library Assistance Act (1965)

Mission

 Provide health professionals and the general public with equal access to biomedical information

Coordinated by the National Library of Medicine

8 Regional Offices

- Support Network members to achieve NN/LM mission
- 5-year contracts











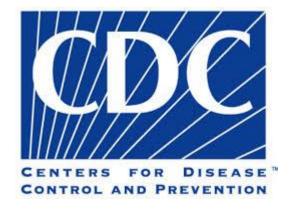


Tips for Evaluating a Health Website

Consider the source -- Use recognized authorities













Beware of bias--What is the purpose? Who is providing the funding?

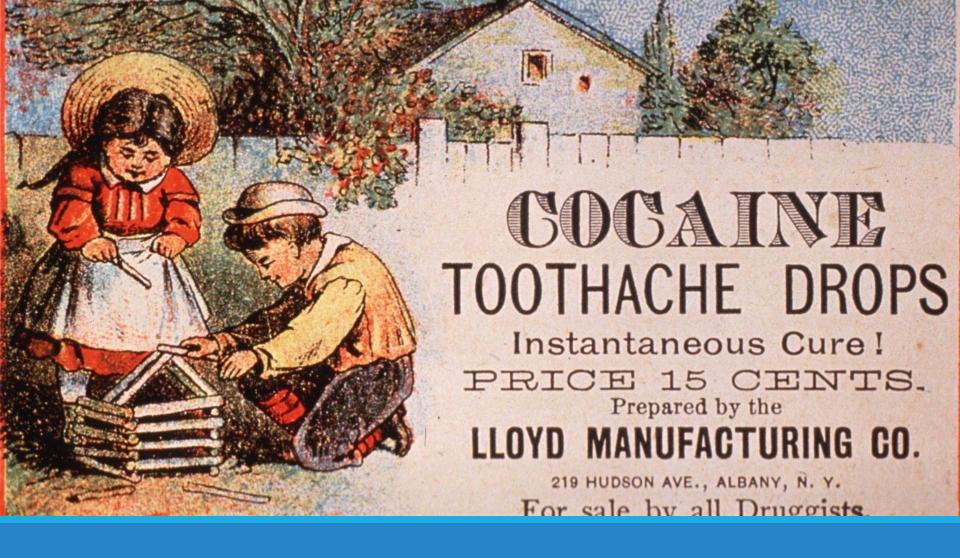
URL for Arthritis.com

versus

URL for MayoClinic Arthritis Definition

Focus on quality! All Web sites are not created equal





Be a cyberskeptic!

Watch out for...

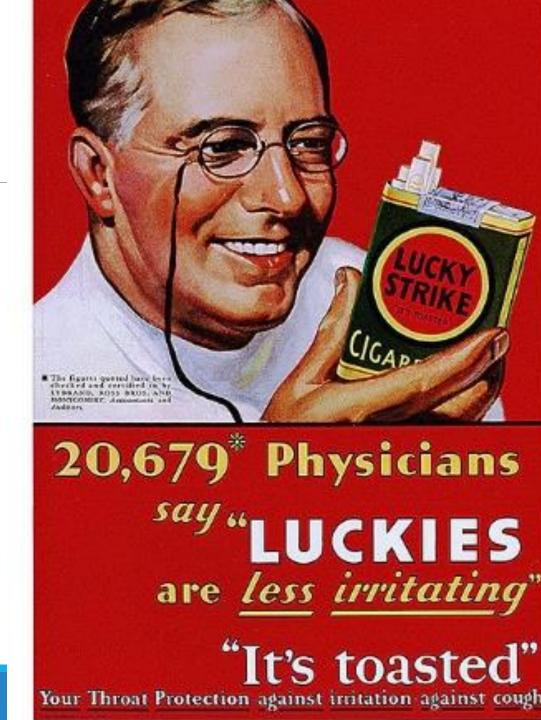
scientific breakthrough

secret ingredient

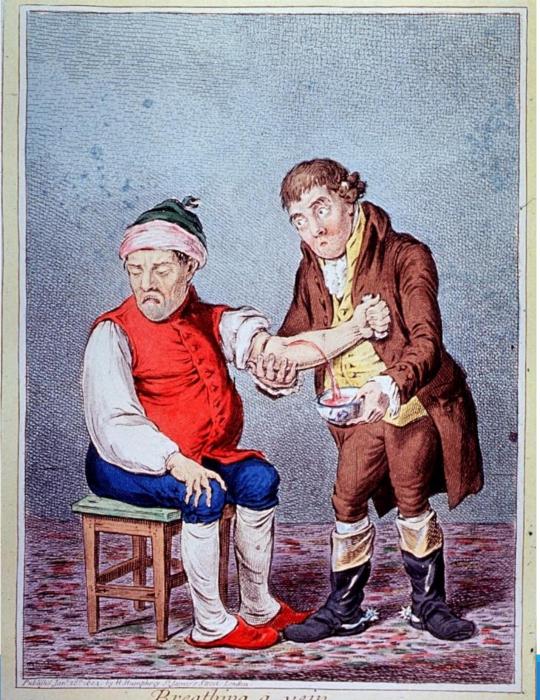
miraculous cure ancient remedy

Look for the evidence--Rely on medical research, not opinion

"20,679 Physicians Prefer It Toasted" by Flickr user clotho98 is licensed under CC BY 2.0



Check for currency--Look for the latest information



Breathing a vein



Consult your health care provider



MedlinePlus & NLM Resources



MedlinePlus: Your Medical Google

MedlinePlus is the National Institutes of Health's Web site for patients and their families and friends.







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Health Topics

Find information on health, wellness, disorders and conditions



Drugs & Supplements

Learn about prescription drugs, over-the-counter medicines. herbs, and supplements



Videos & Tools

Discover tutorials, health and surgery videos, games, and quizzes



Today's Health News

1 in 6 Americans Too Far from Lifesaving Heart Centers

Prenatal Gene Tests Can Sometimes Spot Cancer in Mom-To-Be

Stay Connected

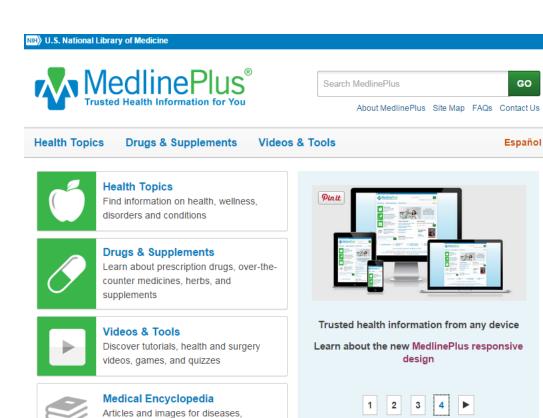


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MedlinePlus In a Nutshell

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symptoms, tests, treatments

- Over 900 health topics in **English and Spanish**
- Drug and herbal supplement information
- Videos and animations
- Surgery videos
- Health Check tools
- Easy-to-read Materials
- Multiple Languages
- Medical Dictionary & Encyclopedia
- Health News



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Home → Health Topics → Veterans and Military Health

Veterans and Military Health

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- Start Here
- Latest News
- Prevention/Screening

Research

- Journal Articles

Learn More

- Related Issues
- Specific Conditions

See, Play and Learn

Tutorials

For You

Women

- Statistics and Research
- Clinical Trials

Resources

- Reference Desk
- Find an Expert
- Finance and Policy

Summary

Military service members and veterans face some different health issues than civilians. During combat, the main health concerns are life-threatening injuries. These include

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Veterans and Military Family Health

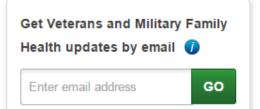
n this page		
Basics Summary	Learn More Related Issues	See, Play and Learn
Start Here Prevention/Screening	Specific Conditions	- rationals
Research	Resources	For You
 Journal Articles 	Find an ExpertFinance and Policy	ChildrenTeenagers

Summary

Service members and veterans face some different health issues from civilians. Their families also face some unique challenges. Families may have to cope with

- · Separation from their loved ones
- · Anxiety over loved ones' safety in combat zones
- · Illnesses and injuries from combat, including disabilities
- · Mental health effects of military service, including post-traumatic stress disorder







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Sun Exposure

Also called: Sunburn

On this page Basics Learn More See, Play and Learn Summary Related Issues Images Start Here Specific Conditions Health Check Tools Latest News Videos Prevention/Screening Treatments and Therapies Research Resources For You Find an Expert Statistics and Research Children Clinical Trials Teenagers Journal Articles Women Seniors















Get Sun Exposure updates by

Patient Handouts



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Español

Home → Health Topics → Diabetes

Diabetes

Also called: Diabetes mellitus, DM

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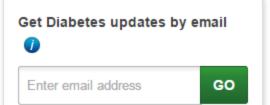












Summary



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Talking With Your Doctor

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Summary

How well you and your doctor communicate with each other is one of the most important parts of getting good health care. Being prepared can help make the most of your visit. Here are some things

Get Talking With Your Doctor updates by email



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Drugs & Supplements



Drugs

Learn about your prescription drugs and over-the-counter medicines. Includes side effects, dosage, special precautions, and more.

Browse by generic or brand name

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ0-9

For FDA approved labels included in drug packages, see DailyMed.



Herbs and Supplements

Browse dietary supplements and herbal remedies to learn about their effectiveness, usual dosage, and drug interactions.

All herbs and supplements

Related Topics

AIDS Medicines

Antibiotics

<u>Antidepressants</u>

Blood Pressure Medicines

Blood Thinners

Cancer Alternative Therapies

Cancer Chemotherapy

Cold and Cough Medicines

Complementary and Alternative

Medicine

Diabetes Medicines

Dietary Supplements

Drug Safety

Herbal Medicine

Hormone Replacement Therapy

Medicines

Over-the-Counter Medicines

Pain Relievers

Statins

Steroids

Vitamins



ESPAÑOL

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Acetaminophen - (a set a mee' noe fen)

Why is this medication prescribed?

How should this medicine be used?

Other uses for this medicine

What special precautions should I follow?

What special dietary instructions should I follow?

What should I do if I forget a dose?

What side effects can this medication cause?

What storage conditions are needed for this medicine?

In case of emergency/overdose

What other information should I know?

Brand names

Brand names of combination products

Other names

Why is this medication prescribed?

<u>Acetaminophen</u> is used to relieve mild to moderate pain from headaches, muscle aches, menstrual periods, colds and sore throats, toothaches, backaches, and reactions to vaccinations (shots), and to reduce fever.

Includes Notices for product changes and Warnings



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Drugs & Supplements



Drugs

Learn about your prescription drugs and over-the-counter medicines. Includes side effects, dosage, special precautions, and more.

Browse by generic or brand name

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z 0-9

For FDA approved labels included in drug packages, see DailyMed.



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<u>Antidepressants</u>

Blood Pressure Medicines

Blood Thinners

Cancer Alternative Therapies

Cancer Chemotherapy

Cold and Cough Medicines

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Medicines

Over-the-Counter Medicines

Pain Relievers

Statins

Steroids

Vitamins





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Acai (Natural Medicines Comprehensive Database)

Alfalfa (Natural Medicines Comprehensive Database)

Aloe (Natural Medicines Comprehensive Database)

Aloe Vera **NIH** (National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine)

Aristolochic Acids (National Toxicology Program) - PDF

Asian Ginseng **NIH** (National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine)

Astragalus NIH (National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine)

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Bacillus coagulans (Natural Medicines Comprehensive Database)

Belladonna (Natural Medicines Comprehensive Database)

Beta-carotene (Natural Medicines Comprehensive Database)

Bifidobacteria (Natural Medicines Comprehensive Database)

Bilberry **NIH** (National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine)



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Gingko NIH (National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine)

Ginkgo (Natural Medicines Comprehensive Database)

Ginseng, American (Natural Medicines Comprehensive Database)

Ginseng, Panax (Natural Medicines Comprehensive Database)

Ginseng, Siberian (Natural Medicines Comprehensive Database)

Glucosamine hydrochloride (Natural Medicines Comprehensive Database)

Glucosamine sulfate (Natural Medicines Comprehensive Database)

Goldenseal NIH (National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine)

Goldenseal (Natural Medicines Comprehensive Database)

Grape Seed Extract NIH (National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine)

Green Tea NIH (National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine)

Green tea (Natural Medicines Comprehensive Database)



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Garlic

What is it? Are there interactions with foods?

How effective is it? What dose is used?

How does it work? Other names

Are there safety concerns? Methodology

References Are there interactions with medications?

Are there interactions with herbs and supplements?

What is it?

Garlic is an herb. It is best known as a flavoring for food. But over the years, garlic has been used as a medicine to prevent or treat a wide range of diseases and conditions. The fresh clove or supplements made from the clove are used for medicine.

Garlic is used for many conditions related to the heart and blood system. These conditions include high blood pressure, high cholesterol, coronary heart disease, heart attack, and "hardening of the arteries" (atherosclerosis). Some of these uses are supported by science. Garlic actually may be effective in slowing the development of atherosclerosis and seems to be able to modestly reduce blood pressure.



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Health and wellness information for older adults from the National Institutes of Health.

Health Topics by First Letter

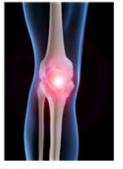
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Categories

- Bones and Joints
- Cancer
- Diseases and Conditions
- Healthy Aging
- Heart and Lungs

- Memory and Mental Health
- Treatments and Therapies
- Vision and Hearing
- All Topics A-Z

Featured Topic



Knee Replacement



Bones and Joints

This category covers diseases and injuries to bones and joints.

- Falls and Older Adults
- Gout
- Hip Replacement
- Knee Replacement
- Osteoarthritis
- Osteoporosis
- Paget's Disease of Bone
- Rheumatoid Arthritis



This Topic

About Falls

Causes And Risk Factors

Making Personal Changes

Fall Proofing Your Home

Devices To Help Prevent Falls

Maintaining Bone Health

If You Fall

Frequently Asked Questions

Learn More

Falls And Older Adults Videos

Quiz Yourself

MedlinePlus For More Information

National Institute On Aging

Related Topics

Balance Problems

Osteoporosis

Falls and Older Adults

About Falls

Risk Increases With Age

Many people have a friend or relative who has fallen. The person may have slipped while walking or felt dizzy when standing up from a chair and fallen. Maybe you've fallen yourself.

If you or an older person you know has fallen, you're not alone. More than one in three people age 65 years or older falls each year. The risk of falling -- and fall-related problems -- rises with age.

Falls Lead to Fractures, Trauma

Each year, more than 1.6 million older U.S. adults go to emergency departments for fall-related injuries. Among older adults, rails are the example cause of fractures, hospital admissions for trauma, loss of independence, and injury deaths.



Fractures caused by falls can lead to hospital stays and disability.

Most often, fall-related fractures are in the person's hip, pelvis, spine, arm, hand, or ankle.

Hip fractures are one of the most serious types of fall injury. They are a leading cause of injury and loss of independence, among older adults. Most healthy, independent older adults who are hospitalized for a broken hip are able to return home or live on their own after treatment and rehabilitation. Most of those who cannot return to independent living after such injuries had physical or mental disabilities before the fracture. Many of them will need long-term care.

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Get Started

Try These Exercises

Go to My Go4Life

Get Free Stuff

Be a Partner

Put some spring in your step!

STAY ACTIVE





EXERCISE

Endurance exercise is good for your heart.



NUTRITION

Maintaining a healthy weight is important for your heart.



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An Exercise Story



Click image to enlarge

Name: William

Age: 86

Location: Massachusetts

Activity: Walking,

Running, Water Aerobics

A World War II veteran, I maintain an active lifestyle, enjoying hiking, skiing, and running. I started road-race and track competitions in my 60s, completed my only marathon (Boston) at age 67, and competed in many state senior games, as well as the Senior Olympics. Now, in my later 80s, regular aquatic exercise is helping me maintain strength and fitness. I wear a wet vest to keep buoyant. Chin-ups and stretching on a water workout station help to improve my upper body strength and flexibility. I exercise with bar bells in the vertical position, and I can do more in the water than I can on land for my abdominal strength and muscle balance. Deep water running is an important part of my fitness program; this full-body workout helps maintain my flexibility and stamina without the trauma on my knees as with running on land.

More Stories

Last reviewed: August 2006

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Symptoms of PTSD

People with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) constantly re-live the trauma they experienced while awake, and in nightmares while asleep. These are called flashbacks and may include images, sounds, smells, or feelings. They may be triggered by ordinary events, such as a door slamming or a car backfiring.

People with PTSD may startle easily, become emotionally distant especially with loved ones, lose interest in things they once enjoyed, be irritable, become aggressive, or even become violent. They may avoid situations that remind them of the traumatic incident. People with PTSD often have depression, too.

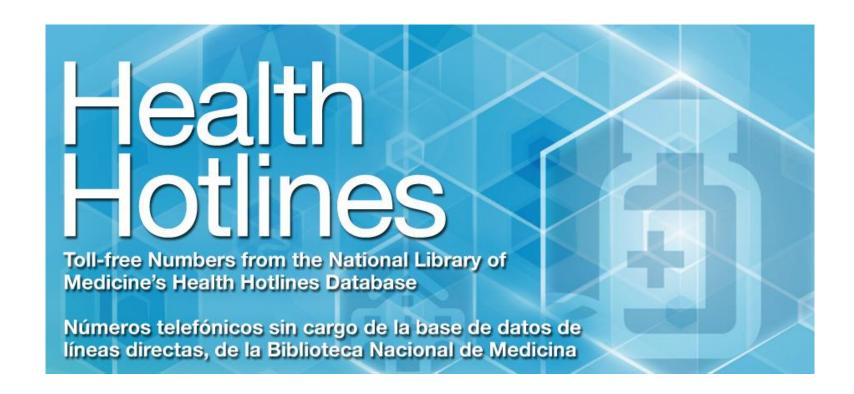
Symptoms of OCD

People with obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) have repeated and unwanted thoughts or images about things such as fear of germs, dirt, or intruders; violent or sexual acts; hurting loved ones; or being overly tidy.

They conduct the same rituals over and over, such as washing



Health Hotlines



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Resources







SITE MAP [A-Z]

Health

Benefits

Burials & Memorials

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STAY CONNECTED WITH VA

For Veterans, dependents, and survivors: information on benefits and services delivered right to your inbox.

Email Address

SUBMIT

Explore VA

Whistleblower Rights and Protections Benefits Book Updated Patient Access Data Released

Health Care

VA operates the nation's largest integrated health care system, with more than 1,700 hospitals, clinics, community living centers, domiciliaries, readjustment counseling centers, and other facilities



VA administers a variety of benefits and services that provide financial and other forms of assistance to Servicemembers, Veterans, their dependents and survivors.



VA operates 131 national cemeteries in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. Burial and memorial benefits are available for eligible service members, Veterans, and family members.

http://www.va.gov/#











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▼ PTSD

PTSD Home

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Hospital Locator

PTSD: National Center for PTSD



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Dial 1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1

III Text to 838255

Confidential Veterans Chat

Support for Deaf and Hard of Hearing

lam Veteran

I am Active Duty/Reserve and Guard

I am Family/Friend

Confidential Help for Veterans and Their Families

The Power of 1

Signs of Crisis

Resources

Get Help

About



Welcome to the Veterans Crisis Line Website

The Veterans Crisis Line connects Veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text. Veterans and their loved ones can call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, chat online, or send a text message to 838255 to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Support for deaf and hard of hearing individuals is available.

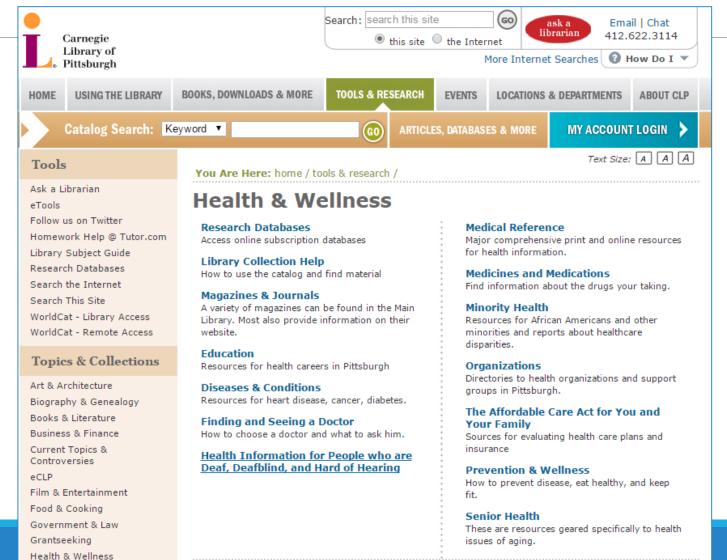
More about the Veterans Crisis Line

Are You a Veteran or Concerned About One?





Don't forget your local library!



Thank You

Lydia Collins, Consumer Health Coordinator

Kate Flewelling, Outreach Coordinator

National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Middle Atlantic Region

http://nnlm.gov/mar/

nnlmmar@pitt.edu



This project has been funded in whole or in part with Federal funds from the National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, under Contract No. HHS-N-276-2011-00003-C with the University of Pittsburgh, Health Sciences Library System.